

Claims

1. Method for network information retrieval, in particular for retrieval of network information about network operators associated with a telephone number, comprising:
 - 5 - coding a request comprising one or more telephone numbers;
 - transmitting said request to a network serving entity for performing said network information retrieval;
 - receiving a response from said network serving entity, said response comprising network information about network operators relating to said one or more telephone numbers;
 - 10 - decoding said response to extract said network information; and
 - storing said network information in conjunction with said one or more telephone numbers.
2. Method according to claim 1, comprising:
 - 15 - receiving a response which is structured into at least one information record which includes one telephone number of said one or more telephone numbers and a network information relating to said one telephone number.
3. Method according to claim 1 or claim 2, comprising:
 - 20 - selecting said one or more telephone numbers from a plurality of telephone numbers stored in a telephone directory of a communication terminal.
4. Method according to claim 3, wherein said selecting is performed manually by a user of said communication terminal.
- 25 5. Method according to claim 3, wherein said selecting is performed automatically in accordance with a pre-defined selection definition.
- 30 6. Method according to anyone of the claims 3 to 5, wherein said telephone directory is for storing telephone directory entries each of which includes at least a designation and a telephone number, wherein said method comprises:
 - identifying at least one telephone directory entry, to which said at least one information record relates, on the basis of said one telephone number that is included in said information record;
 - 35 storing said network information by including said network information into said at least one identified telephone directory entry.

7. Method according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein said network information comprises at least information about a network operator, in particular information about an identity of said network operator.

5 8. Method according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein said network information comprises charging information.

9. Method for network information retrieval, in particular for serving a retrieval of network information about network operators associated with a telephone number, comprising:

10 - receiving a request from a communication terminal, wherein said request comprises one or more telephone numbers;
- decoding said request to extract said one or more telephone numbers;
- retrieving network information about network operators relating to said one or more telephone numbers;
- coding a response which comprises said retrieved network information; and
15 - transmitting said response to said communication terminal.

10. Method according to claim 9, comprising:

20 - retrieving network information by accessing a data storage which stores network information which relates to a plurality of telephone numbers.

11. Method according to claim 9 or claim 10, comprising:

25 - coding said response which is structured into at least one information record including one telephone number of said one or more telephone numbers and network information which relates to said one telephone number.

12. Method according to anyone of the claims 9 to 11, wherein said network information comprises at least information about a network operator, in particular information about an identity of said network operator.

30 13. Method according to anyone of the claims 9 to 12, wherein said network information comprises charging information.

35 14. Method for network information retrieval, in particular for retrieval of network information about network operators associated with a telephone number, comprising:

- coding a request, which comprises one or more telephone numbers, in a communication terminal;

- transmitting said request to a network serving entity for performing said network information retrieval;
- receiving said request which comprises one or more telephone numbers;
- decoding said request in said network serving entity to extract said one or more telephone numbers;
- retrieving network information about network operators relating to said one or more telephone numbers;
- coding a response, which comprises said retrieved network information, in said network serving entity; and
- transmitting said response to said communication terminal;
- receiving said response which comprises network information relating to said one or more telephone numbers;
- decoding said response in said communication terminal to extract said network information; and
- storing said network information in conjunction with said one or more telephone numbers.

15. Computer program product for network information retrieval, comprising loadable program code sections for carrying out the operations of any one of the claims 1 to 14, when said program code is executed on a microprocessor based component, a processing device, a terminal device, a communication terminal device, a serving device or a networked device.

20. Computer program product network information retrieval, wherein said computer program product is comprising program code sections stored on a computer readable medium for carrying out the method of any one of the claims 1 to 14, when said computer program product is executed on a microprocessor based component, a processing device, a terminal device, a communication terminal device, a serving device or a networked device.

25. Computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and representing instructions which when executed by a processor cause the steps of anyone of claims 1 to 14 to be carried out.

30. Communication terminal comprising:

- a coding component for coding a request which includes one or more telephone numbers;
- a communication interface component for transmitting said request and for receiving a response in accordance with said request

- a decoding component for decoding said response to extract network information; wherein network information is comprised in said response and relates to said one or more telephone numbers; and
- a storing component for storing said network information into a telephone directory of said communication terminal; wherein said network information is stored in accordance with said one or more telephone numbers to which it relates.

5 19. Network serving entity comprising

- a communication interface component for receiving a request from a communication terminal and for transmitting a response to said communication terminal;
- a decoding component for decoding said request which includes one or more telephone numbers;
- a retrieving component for retrieving network information in accordance with said one or more telephone numbers; and
- a coding component for coding said response which comprises said retrieved network information.

10 20. System for network information retrieval, comprising at least one communication terminal and at least one network serving entity,

15 wherein said at least one communication terminal comprises:

- a coding component for coding a request which includes one or more telephone numbers;
- a communication interface component for transmitting said request and for receiving a response in accordance with said request
- a decoding component for decoding said response to extract network information; wherein network information is comprised in said response and relates to said one or more telephone numbers; and
- a storing component for storing said network information into a telephone directory of said communication terminal; said network information is stored in accordance with said one or more telephone numbers to which it relates;

20 30 wherein said at least one network serving entity comprises:

- a communication interface component for receiving a request from a communication terminal and for transmitting a response to said communication terminal;
- a decoding component for decoding said request which includes one or more telephone numbers;
- a retrieval component for retrieving network information in accordance with said one or more telephone numbers; and

- a coding component for coding said response which comprises said retrieved network information.